

CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE
ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/PV.346
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THE UNIVERSITY
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COLLECTION

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 9 November 1967, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman:

Mr. A. ZELLEKE

(Ethiopia)

GE.67-23714
67-28531

PRESENT AT THE TABLE

<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. A.F. AZEREDO da SILVEIRA Mr. A. da COSTA GUIMARAES Mr. S. de QUEIROZ DUARTE
<u>Bulgaria:</u>	Mr. K. CHRISTOV Mr. B. KONSTANTINOV Mr. T. DAMIANOV
<u>Burma:</u>	U KYAW MIN
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. E.L.M. BURNS Mr. A.G. CAMPBELL Mr. J.R. MORDEN Mr. A. BERNIER
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	Mr. V. VAJNAR Mr. J. STRUCKA
<u>Ethiopia:</u>	Mr. A. ZELLEKE Mr. B. ASSFAW
<u>India:</u>	Mr. V.C. TRIVEDI Mr. N. KRISHNAN Mr. K.P. JAIN
<u>Italy:</u>	Mr. R. CARACCILO Mr. G.P. TOZZOLI Mr. E. FRANCO Mr. F. SORO
<u>Mexico:</u>	Mr. J. CASTANEDA Miss E. AGUIRRE
<u>Nigeria:</u>	Mr. B.O. TONWE
<u>Poland:</u>	Mr. A. CZARKOWSKI Mr. E. STANIEWSKI

Romania:

Mr. N. ECOBESCO
Mr. O. IONESCO
Mr. C. GEORGESCO
Mr. A. COROIANU

Sweden:

Mr. A. EDELSTAM
Mr. R. BOMAN

Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics:

Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
Mr. V.V. SHUSTOV
Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
Mr. V.A. SEMENOV

United Arab Republic:

Mr. H. KHALLAF
Mr. O. SIRRY
Mr. M. SHAKER

United Kingdom:

Sir Harold BEELEY
Mr. I.F. PORTER
Mr. R.I.T. CROMARTIE

United States of America:

Mr. W.C. FOSTER
Mr. S. DePALMA
Mr. C.G. BREAM
Mr. A.F. NEIDLE

Special Representative of the
Secretary-General:

Mr. D. PROTITCH

Deputy Special Representative
of the Secretary-General:

Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Ethiopia): I declare open the 346th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. BURNS (Canada): Today the Canadian delegation wishes to offer a few brief comments on the Nigerian proposals for amendment of the draft non-proliferation treaty (ENDC/192, 193) which are set out in document ENDC/202 and were explained by the representative of Nigeria at our 344th meeting. At our 345th meeting we said that we should like to discuss in a later intervention the Nigerian proposals, including the proposal relating to security assurances to non-nuclear States.

3. We note that the representative of Nigeria welcomed the statements of representatives of the United States at recent meetings to the effect that proposals made by members of the Committee were being studied for the purpose of including them in the final draft treaty. We also agree with the view expressed by the representative of Nigeria as follows:

"...we thought that while waiting for the successful conclusion of negotiations on that article" -- article III -- "this Committee could move ahead and complete work on the other parts of the treaty" (ENDC/PV.344, para. 4).

That would require, in the view of my delegation, a discussion of the proposals which have been advanced for amendment of the draft treaties by other delegations which have views on whether the amendments would constitute an improvement or otherwise.

4. In regard to the new article IIA proposed by the delegation of Nigeria, the Canadian delegation, while understanding and sympathizing with the concern of States not possessing nuclear weapons in regard to assurances for their security, must repeat the view which was expressed in our statement of 12 October:

"...we remain of the opinion that to include in the treaty itself an article on security assurances satisfactory to all non-nuclear States would be extremely difficult and might well have the affect of unacceptably prolonging and complicating the successful negotiation of the treaty." (ENDC/PV.338, para.11)

At that time I also referred back to one of our previous statements (ENDC/PV.329, para. 23 et seq.) in which we stated our view that security assurances could be more effectively given in other ways than by inserting an article in the proposed non-proliferation treaty. As we mentioned recently, we understand that the co-Chairmen are studying that problem. We hope that they may soon be able to express positive views on how it should be solved.

(Mr. Burns, Canada)

5. I turn now to the article IVA proposed by the Nigerian delegation. We see in this proposal an endeavour to deal with the same subject as was dealt with in the article IVA proposed by the delegation of Mexico (ENDC/196). These articles deal with assurances of co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear explosions to be consistent with other articles of the treaty. We feel that in some respects the language suggested by the Nigerian delegation relating to co-operation in development of nuclear energy generally, especially in the first sub-paragraph, may be preferable to the language in the Mexican draft amendment to article IV. We ourselves are not going to attempt to produce a draft amalgamating the language in the two proposed amendments; but we hope that the co-Chairmen will take note of both drafts on the subject, which is of considerable concern to States not possessing nuclear weapons -- including Canada.

6. While there should be a commitment in the treaty in general terms to effect co-operation of such kinds, it must be supplemented by other agreements outside the treaty, and these will require further study. It appears desirable to reach some sort of consensus concerning the range of scientific and technical information non-nuclear-weapon States can expect to receive from nuclear-weapon States parties to the treaty as a kind of compensation for their resigning their sovereign rights to proceed with research and development of nuclear weapons. It seems to me that such a consensus is emerging; and it is likely to be more closely related to the rights resigned than to the very broad area proposed in the Nigerian amendment.

7. The Canadian delegation is a little doubtful about the proposal in the third paragraph of the Nigerian article IVA wherein the nuclear Powers are called on to provide facilities for scientists from countries not possessing nuclear weapons to collaborate in working on nuclear explosive devices. That, it seems to us, is asking for information on how to make a nuclear explosive device, which would be contrary to the provisions of articles I and II of the draft treaties.

8. With regard to the article IVB suggested by Nigeria, the Canadian delegation is not clear what purpose the proposed furnishing of information to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would fulfil. Possibly the delegation of Nigeria may later explain its reasons for proposing what might be an onerous addition to the functions of IAEA.

(Mr. Burns, Canada)

9. The article IVC proposed by the Nigerian delegation appears to us to be somewhat the same as the second amendment to article I proposed by the United Arab Republic delegation (ENDC/197). As we stated in our intervention on 12 October, we do not see the necessity for such an amendment if it is only to ensure that all persons, companies and corporations subject to the sovereignty of a State party to the treaty do not do anything contrary to that treaty (ENDC/PV.338, para.7). However, the Nigerian delegation may have had other things in mind when it proposed this article, and perhaps it will explain its purpose a little more fully if it considers it necessary to do so.

10. With regard to the article VII proposed by the Nigerian delegation: the new parts are sub-paragraphs which would make it grounds for withdrawal from the treaty (a) if any party decided that its aims were being frustrated or (b) if the failure of certain States to adhere to the treaty threatened that party's security. It would not enhance the stability of the treaty, in our view, to include in it a phrase which would be open to such variable interpretations as "that the aims of the Treaty are being frustrated". As for there being grounds for withdrawal in the non-adherence of certain States, which might constitute a threat to a party's security, it would seem to the Canadian delegation that any State that had signed the treaty might delay ratification thereof if it perceived a threat through the non-adherence of some other State or States.

11. Those are the comments we wished to make today on the proposals by the representative of Nigeria; the criticisms we have made are offered with the aim of clarifying some of the questions which came to mind as we read those proposals.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

"The Conference of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament today held its 346th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Zelleke, representative of Ethiopia.

"A statement was made by the representative of Canada.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 14 November 1967, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.